



**Administrative Professionals Week**  
April 17-21, 2006, was Administrative Professionals Week, formerly Secretaries Week. This week originated in 1952, and was designed to recognize the contributions and achievements of administrative support workers in the development, progress, and continuance of business, including federal, state, and local governments across the Nation. DC Fire/EMS staff celebrated this year with lunch at Tony and Joe's on the Washington Waterfront, and a water demonstration from the Fireboat.

Letters of Appreciation (continued)

- FF Robert Mooney, E-6
- FF Christian Mueller, E-33
- FF Bryan Munford, E-20
- FF Jonathan Riffe, E-3
- FF Andrew Rimm, T-4
- FF Earnest Strong, T-5
- FF Chuck Suto, E-22
- Inspector Mark Davis, FPD
- EMS Sgt. Vincent Fraizer, TA

Medal of Valor

The Eastern Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs have named four DC Fire/EMS employees Medal of Valor winners for their actions at 2300 Good Hope Road, SE, on January 11, 2005. Congratulations to Lt. Wayne

Klinger (RS-3), FF Michael Deems (T-7), FF Timothy Clark (RS-3) and FF Matthew Cormicle (RS-1).

DCFEMS 4-1-1  
Death Notices

The department regrets the passing of the following retired and active members: Retired Firefighter Larry Smith who passed away on April 3, 2006; Retired Firefighter Ronald J. Olmsted, Sr., who passed away on April 5, 2006; Retired Firefighter John E. Dodson who passed away on April 11, 2005; Retired Firefighter Arthur Cavanaugh who passed away on April 30, 2006; and Active Firefighter Robert Lee Hodges who passed away on May 8, 2006.



The District of Columbia Fire/EMS Department

# BEACON

April/May 2006  
Volume VI, Issue 3

An Internal Publication of the D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, D.C. Government



★★★ **Adrian H. Thompson,**  
**Fire/EMS Chief**

**Anthony A. Williams, Mayor**

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**DC FEMS 4-1-1**

Please e-mail your births, deaths, retirements, marriages or other personal news to share to [gwendolyn.smith@dc.gov](mailto:gwendolyn.smith@dc.gov). Submissions are requested no later than the third Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m.

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Contact us at (202) 673-3331 or fax (202) 673-3188

**Hundreds Submit FF/EMT Applications**  
Nearly 2,000 applications were taken Saturday, March 25th – from candidates hoping to become DC Firefighter/EMTs. Thousands of applicants stood on line, some for hours, to be among the first to submit their applications. Forms were submitted at nine sites across the city, including the training academy. The entry level exam was administered on Saturday, May 20.

**Hot Pursuit**  
It's not everyday you see firefighters in full gear running down the street like Olympic athletes, but it happened April 21st in Columbia Heights. They were after an arson suspect. Engine 4 was on Columbia Rod near 9th Street putting out a series of fires that had been started in some trash cans.

Sergeant Theodore Robinson saw the suspect set a dumpster on fire and started chasing after him. He was joined by firefighters Marco Baylor, Kenneth Humphries and Charlie Shyab.

The firefighters caught up to the suspect and sat on him until fire investigator Rodney Taylor arrived to take him into custody.

It's not something for which firefighters are trained, but "Sometimes you have to do things outside the call of duty," said Sergeant Robinson.

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## Conspicuous Service and Pre-Hospital Care Awards

A Departmental Awards Ceremony will be held at 1900 hours, Monday, June 5, 2006 at the National Zoo Visitors Center Auditorium, 3001 Connecticut Avenue, NW.

Awards to be presented during the ceremony include Conspicuous Service Awards designated by the D.A.B.A. and Pre-Hospital Care Awards designated by the Medical Director:

Bronze Bar — Valor	I-5
Bronze Bar — Merit	I-6
Individual Commendation — Valor	II-5
Individual Commendation — Merit	II-6
Unit Commendation — Valor	II-5-U
Unit Commendation — Merit	II-6-U
Appreciation	III
Company of the Year	
Paramedic of the Year	
EMT-I of the Year	
EMS Supervisor of the Year	
EMS Preceptor of the Year	
EMT of the Year	
Instructor of the Year	
Excellence in Pre-Hospital Care	



Engine 3 was the backdrop for a National Fallen Firefighters Foundation event on April 6th. Members of Congress and fire officials from around the region and country attended a luncheon in honor of families of fallen firefighters. Pictured left to right are: Hal Bruno with NFFF, Montgomery County Fire Chief Tom Carr, NFFF CEO Ron Sarnicki, DC AFCS Doug Smith, DC AFCS William FitzGerald, DC Fire/EMS Chief Adrian Thompson, and Howard County Fire Chief Ronald Blackwell.

## American Diabetes Alert Day

On March 28th DC Fire/EMS worked with two leading health organizations in the District of Columbia in an effort to help raise awareness of diabetes and its warning signs.

Six firehouses helped "Sound the Alert" on American Diabetes Alert Day — an annual effort to raise awareness of the disease. Nearly 21 million Americans have diabetes, but nearly one-third of them do not know it.

Engines 3, 8, 16, 18 and 24 all helped out in this effort by hanging Diabetes Risk Test banners from the exterior of their stations and working with volunteers from the American Diabetes Association in handing out risk tests to passers-by. Additionally, the Community Room at Engine 24 became a diabetes screening room as nurses and staff from MedStar Research Institute provided free blood glucose and blood pressure screenings to area residents.

More than 45,000 residents of the District of Columbia have diabetes; 15,000 of them are undiagnosed. Another

100,000 residents have a condition called "pre-diabetes" which is essentially diabetes waiting in the wings — unless changes in diet and exercise are made.

Undiagnosed diabetes often remains that way until its victim is rushed to the hospital with a heart attack, kidney failure, blindness or a gangrenous limb. Early detection of the disease can save countless lives and money in emergency medical costs.

Could you be at risk for diabetes? Take the Diabetes Risk Test and find out Today! Visit their website at <http://diabetes.org> or call 1-800-DIABETES (800-342-2383).



## EMS Week

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week, a nationwide salute to call-takers, dispatchers, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency physicians, educators, and administrators, was May 14-20 this year. The D.C. Fire/EMS Department had several events during EMS Week. The Opening Ceremony was held at Paul Public Charter School where Fire/EMS Chief Adrian Thompson and Medical Director Amit Wahdwa presented awards to Stars of Life and Life Savers from 2005. There were 141 Fire/EMS recipients of the Life Saver Award for 2005.



Chief Thompson joined Assistant Fire Chiefs Smith and FitzGerald at Engine 11 recently for a firehouse inspection. Now that Spring Cleaning is completed, deputy chiefs are conducting inspections to make sure our firehouses are fit for summer.

...continued on page 4





Webmaster John Mullen receives a special commendation from the Retired Firefighters Association and Local 36. Mullen is lauded for his popular website — DCFD.com — which features news and information about DC Fire/EMS. The award was given during a retirement dinner March 30th.

#### Customer Service — Agency Phone Line Staffing

The Mayor's Customer Service program requires that main agency telephone lines always be answered by a live operator during regular business hours. At Fire/EMS, the Office of the Fire Chief, Budget, PIO, Fire Prevention Division and the Training Academy all have main lines that must be staffed in this way. With the exception of firehouse watch desks, other phone numbers must have working voicemail, and messages must be returned within 24 hours or the next business day. For more information on Customer Service Performance Compliance please contact: Fire/EMS Office of Customer Service at 202-673-3677 or 202-673-3678.

#### Making a Difference, One by One

The 51st Annual DC One Fund Campaign kicked off on January 11, 2006 and ended on March 31, 2006. The One Fund is the District government's only official charitable fundraiser. DC government employees pledge

their support annually to not-for-profit, charitable organizations in the Washington area. DC Fire and EMS had 181 contributors to the 51st One Fund Campaign including 18 employees who were Fair Share givers or above. In all, Fire/EMS employees contributed more than \$43,000 to the campaign. For more information on the 51st One Fund Campaign please contact: Office of Customer Service, William Wright at 202-673-3677 or Clothida Onyegbule at 202-673-3678.

#### XP Upgrade Complete!

Thank you to all users for your patience in the XP upgrade. While it created some inconvenience, having all computer workstations on one operating platform is a huge benefit in the long run and adds enhanced security to our network.

Network Bandwidth Reports available on the intranet — want to see how the network is performing? Access the intranet on your web home page under MIS ([www.in.fems.dc.gov](http://www.in.fems.dc.gov)).



Firefighters rescued dozens of pieces of valuable artwork in Georgetown on April 25th. The blaze, which escalated to two alarms and was the result of roofer's renovation work, was reported in the three-story single-family home in the 3100 block of P Street, NW. There were thousands of dollars worth of artwork inside the house, and firefighters set to work removing the delicate paintings and sculptures. There were no injuries. Pictured are firefighters Ira Schwarzman (l) and Marshall Davies. (r).

**New MIS employees** — Please welcome Syed Quadri, IT Generalist, Ronald Tresvant, Telecommunications Specialist, and Jyoti Agrawal, Program Analyst. All employees come with a wealth of experience and will strengthen MIS service to the Department.



Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic C.C. Wilson was featured on April 2nd in the *Kidspost* section of the **Washington Post**. Firefighter Wilson was part of a feature focusing on careers. She was pictured putting on her turnout gear, and she was interviewed about why she decided to be a firefighter and a paramedic. She is pictured above being interviewed by NBC's James Adams on a similar story the station produced in February.

#### Health Information Privacy and Security Week

The Health Information Privacy and Security Week was nationally recognized April 9-15, 2006. This week presented a great opportunity for Fire/EMS personnel to address the challenges and opportunities facing health information management. During the Fire/EMS Chief's regular senior staff meeting on April 5, 2006, Tisa Smith, Information and Privacy Officer, presented a "HIPAA EMPOWERMENT" session in the form of "HIPAA MANIA." It included a brief review of policy and procedures to ensure HIPAA compliance within the agency, and Q&As. Ms. Smith was assisted by Tyra Thomas, HIPAA Specialist, and Angela White, Medical Records Manager. Any questions about HIPAA or HIPAA compliance should be directed to Ms. Tisa Smith at 202-673-3320.



#### Women's Program Luncheon

In honor of National Women's History Month, the DC Fire/EMS Department's Women's Program honored "Our Women in Fire Service" during at a luncheon at the Training Academy on March 29th. A special honor was given to Veronica Johnson Meteorologist, NBC 4.





The Ride to Remember

September 11, 2001, just saying the date brings back many images of one of the worst days in America. Images of planes flying into buildings, people running for their lives, and smoke on the horizon of two of the greatest cities in the world. It is hard to forget all of the firefighters who made the supreme sacrifice, and the endless funerals. Our lives have been changed forever.

For the firefighters of the District of Columbia who responded to the Pentagon, we will never forget that day. One of our nation's toughest buildings was engulfed in flames with people exiting the inferno. After hours of rescue attempts, firefighting activities, and hundreds of exhausted firefighters from multiple agencies, 184 people lost their lives. The DC Fire/EMS Department spent several days assisting Arlington Fire Department with rescue and fire suppression duties.

Five years later, firefighters from the District of Columbia Christian Firefighters Association decided to sponsor a cross



At least eight people were rescued April 19th by firefighters in the Third Battalion responding to an apartment fire. The early morning blaze in the 300 block of Livingston Terrace, SE, drove as many as 60 residents into the street. As firefighters arrived, several people were preparing to jump. But firefighters got to them quickly and took everyone down ground ladders. Several others were assisted from the building, and others were sheltered in place. There were no injuries.

country bicycle trip to honor those who died that day. They are trying to find firefighters from around the country to ride in honor of those who died and the sacrifices they made.

"The Ride to Remember" will begin on August 1, 2006 in San Francisco, CA, and end at the Pentagon on September 11th at 9:48am. During the 42 day ride firefighters will cover 3,700 miles using Adventure Cycling's Western Express Route, and their Trans-America Route. Along the way they will stay at local firehouses to share their experiences and encourage them to hold local ceremonies to honor the civilians and 343 firefighters who perished on September 11. Many firefighters will wear T-shirts saying "Never Forget." This is their way of making good on that promise.

In addition to seeking firefighters to ride from coast to coast, they are looking for partners to help the financial sponsorship as well as providing logistical support. This support can be in the way of providing vehicles and drivers to help set up rest stops as well as nightly stops. All monies collected providing vehicles and drivers will go to help fund the families of those who died at the Pentagon and the Washington DC Burn Foundation.

For more information, contact Craig W. Duck, 495 Century Vista Drive, Arnold, MD, 21042 or call 410-647-0853 or visit firequacker621@aol.com.

Letters of Appreciation

The following members and units have been the subject of numerous letters and commendation, and thanks from public correspondence received in the Office of the Fire/EMS Chief for the months of February

and March 2006. Fire/EMS Chief Adrian Thompson sends a thank you to all personnel listed for their dedication to service and the community.

February 2006

- DFC Richard Fleming, FPD
- BFC John Burger, FPD
- Captain Milton Douglas, E-11
- Lt. Samuel R. Jackson, E-11
- Lt. Gregory Robey, T-6
- Lt. Paul Wood, T-7
- Investigator Kwaeme Agymne, FPD, FIU
- Investigator Gregory Bowyer, FPD, FIU
- Investigator Aaron Hazel, FPD, FIU
- Investigator Gerald Pennington, FPD, FIU
- FF Joseph Baka, E-11
- FF Thomas Carroll, E-11
- FF Robert Chamberlain, T-6
- FF Aaron Dawkins, T-12
- FF Mike Fitzgerald, E-11
- FF Tye Glover, E-11
- FF Levine Harley, T-7
- FF John Hayman, T-7
- FF Francisco Iscoa, E-11
- FF Joe Lozupone, T-7
- FF Kenneth Nehf, Jr., T-6
- FF Dave Palmer, T-7
- FF Rych Pullen, E-11
- FF Russell Smith, E-11
- FF Chris Tucker, E-11
- EMS Captain Sheila Watson, TA
- EMS Sgt. Vincent Frazier, TA
- Paramedic Marilyn Holmes, EMS Bureau
- EMT Vernard Green, EMS Bureau
- EMT Louis Mendoza, EMS Bureau



French Firefighter Robin Laurent and his fiancé, Laurie Vuillermet, on a global trip on behalf of a 4 year old girl who suffers West Syndrome, a debilitating disease that affects a child's ability to grow normally, stops in at Engine 6.

March 2006

- DFC Lawrence Schultz, SPO
- DFC Michel Willis, TA
- BFC Craig Baker, TA
- Lt. David Foust, E-20
- Lt. James Partridge, E-6
- Lt. Dion Prout, E-14
- Sgt. Porter Lawson, E-14
- Sgt. Erick Marsh, FPD
- FF Donald Busl, Jr., E-22
- FF Andrew Collins, E-22
- FF Darryl Green, E-14
- FF Delmar Freeman, E-6
- FF Delmar Freeman, E-4
- FF Anthony Kelleher, E-4
- FF Randall Lane, E-6
- FF Scott MacLeod, T-11
- FF Rolanda Mason, E-14
- FF Dennis McVey, T-12

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